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RESPONSE FORM: THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL TRUSTEE

Responses on the conclusions and questions raised in the discussion paper are invited. Respondents may complete the response form attached or prepare a separate document.

It is important to read thoroughly the discussion paper prepared by the Committee to Examine the Role of the School Trustee to ensure relevant comments on the committee's conclusions and meaningful responses to the questions on each section.

Responses should be sent no later than October 15, 1981 to:

The Committee to Examine the Role of  
the Trustee,  
Ministry of Education,  
15th Floor, Mowat Block,  
900 Bay Street,  
Toronto, Ontario,  
M7A 1L2

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Name of respondent: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If desired)

RESPONSE FORM: THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL TRUSTEE

I ROLE, POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARDS/TRUSTEES

A. School Boards

Conclusions

1. While other governance schemes are possible, a system of school boards, directly elected locally and distinct from other locally elected bodies, is important to retain and it is not practical to merge or combine school boards with other municipal bodies.

Agree \_\_\_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

2. Since the problems of provincial policy versus local autonomy is a difficult one, there is need to clarify when and how provincial involvement will occur in situations which have previously been matters for local board decision.

Agree \_\_\_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:



Questions

1. Should school boards be given more autonomy in the operation of schools than is now permitted under the regulation (Regulation 704/78) which now governs the operation of schools?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

2. Should there be less or more local control of curricula than at present?

Less \_\_\_\_\_

More \_\_\_\_\_

No Change \_\_\_\_\_

No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

3. As a general practice, should the Ministry of Education forward policy statements

a) directly to Directors of Education and Principals of schools?

b) only through the elected school boards?

c) to both school board chairmen and local education officials at the same time?

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:



4. To assist trustees and others to become more familiar with the Education Act, should the Ministry prepare a layman's guide to the legislation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

5. Should the Ministry assume the responsibility of providing necessary and timely information to the school boards on the periodic redetermination of the numbers of trustees to be elected rather than relying on the system currently in place?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

B. Individual Trustees

Conclusion

The legal responsibilities and liabilities of the individual trustee need to be defined.

Agree \_\_\_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

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Questions

1. Does an individual trustee have an obligation to respect the confidential nature of discussions, including "in camera" sessions of committees of the board?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

2. If the individual trustee does have an obligation concerning confidentiality, what recourse and/or penalty should there be if that confidentiality is not honoured?

Comments:

II LEGISLATIVE QUALIFICATIONS OF TRUSTEES

Conclusions

1. An employee should not be eligible to serve as a trustee on the board that employs him/her.

Agree \_\_\_\_\_

Disagree \_\_\_\_\_

No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:



2. The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act indicates clearly the procedure for a trustee to follow when his/her spouse is an employee of the board and a conflict of interest arises, therefore it is neither practical nor reasonable to support further limitations on the eligibility of spouses of board employees to be candidates for trustee.

Agree \_\_\_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Questions

1. a) Should an employee of one board be eligible to be a candidate for trustee on another board?
- Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion \_\_\_\_\_
- b) If an employee has a right to be a candidate for another board, should he/she be required to:
- (i) take a leave of absence without pay in order to be a candidate?
- Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) Continue on leave of absence without pay while he/she remains a trustee?
- Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion \_\_\_\_\_
- (iii) Resign in order to be a trustee?
- Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:



### III REMUNERATION OF TRUSTEES

#### Conclusions

1. The continuation of the present system of a scale of allowances established in the Education Act is no longer appropriate.

Agree \_\_\_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

2. Trustees, as responsible elected officials, should have the authority to establish their own level of remuneration.

Agree \_\_\_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

3. The minimum level of trustee remuneration should be \$400.00 per month, which would be funded by a combination of provincial grant and local taxes and that any remuneration in excess of the minimum level be determined by each school board and be charged entirely against local taxes.

Agree \_\_\_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:



IV STRUCTURED PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Conclusions

1. While parental involvement in the schools is important, a legislated requirement to have parent committees is counter-productive.

Agree \_\_\_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

2. Rather than a legislated requirement for school-parent committees, initiatives should be undertaken to encourage the formation of parent groups to work with the school and the board, and to ensure that the administration recognizes and takes seriously the parent group's involvement.

Agree \_\_\_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

3. The Ministry of Education should make it clear that it supports and encourages the formation of broadly based local school or area parent groups and that such groups have the right to form and to expect cooperation from their school board administration in efforts to integrate the school with the community and to improve the school environment.

Agree \_\_\_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:



4. Any necessary legislative changes should be made to assure that it is legitimate for a school board to provide financial or staff support or technical assistance to groups such as a Home and School or Parent-Teacher Association in its jurisdiction, should the board decide to do so.

Agree \_\_\_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

5. Volunteer involvement with schools and boards is something to be encouraged. In order to remove obstacles to this, steps should be taken to assure that boards may pay the expenses of volunteers on board business, in the same way that expenses of members of the board or its staff are paid.

Agree \_\_\_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

GENERAL COMMENTS

